

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 4-15 and 17-25, AMEND claim 1 and ADD new claim 26 in accordance with the following:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A water-dispersible cellulose, the water-dispersible cellulose being derived from a plant cell wall having starting cellulosic substance, wherein the starting cellulosic substance has an α -cellulose content of 60-90% by weight and an average degree of polymerization of 400-1300, or the starting cellulosic substance has an α -cellulose content of 60-100% by weight and an average degree of polymerization greater than 1,300, the water-dispersible cellulose being crystalline having a crystallinity of 55% or more, and fine fibrous without entanglement between fibers, and the water-dispersible cellulose having substantially no branched bundles of fiber, the water-dispersible cellulose comprising 30% by weight or more of a component stably suspensible in water, wherein the component comprises a fibrous cellulose having a length (major axis) of 0.5-30 μm and a width (minor axis) of 2-600 nm, and a length/width ratio (major axis/minor axis) of 20-400, and the water-dispersible cellulose having a loss tangent of less than 1, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.
2. (Previously Presented) The water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1, comprising 50% by weight or more of the component stably suspensible in water and having the loss tangent of less than 0.6, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.
3. (Previously Presented) An aqueous suspension-form composition,

comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1 or 2 in an amount of 0.0005-7% by weight and water.

4-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A food composition, comprising: the water-dispersible cellulose according to claim 1 or 2.

17-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A water-dispersible cellulose,
the water-dispersible cellulose being derived from a plant cell wall having starting cellulosic substance, wherein the starting cellulosic substance has an α -cellulose content of 60-90% by weight and an average degree of polymerization of 400-1300, or the starting cellulosic substance has an α -cellulose content of 60-100% by weight and an average degree of polymerization greater than 1,300,

the water-dispersible cellulose being crystalline having a crystallinity of 55% or more, and fine fibrous, and

the water-dispersible cellulose comprising 30% by weight or more of a component stably suspensible in water after being centrifuged at 1,000 G for 5 minutes, wherein the component comprises a fibrous cellulose having a length (major axis) of 0.5-30 μ m and a width (minor axis) of 2-600 nm, and a length/width ratio (major axis/minor axis) of 20-400, and

the water-dispersible cellulose having a loss tangent of less than 1, when made into a 0.5% by weight aqueous dispersion.

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